

REMARKS

Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which more clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance. Currently, claims 1, 3-9, 11-13 and 15-21 are pending. Claims 10 and 14 were canceled without prejudice in this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner indicated that claims 1-7 are allowed and that claims 14-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 8, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,088,131 to Elam. Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is requested.

Applicants have amended independent claim 8 to include all of the features of claims 10, 12 and 14 with the exception of “said axially moveable member includes means for substantially sealing inside said body portion, said member in use axially moveable within said body portion” presented in claim 12, thereby in effect placing claim 14 into independent form.

Applicant submits that Elam does not disclose or suggest the combination specified in claim 8, as amended. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 8 is requested.

Claim 12 is dependent upon claim 8 which Applicant submits is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 12 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

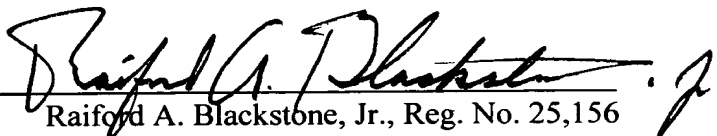
Claims 9, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Elam. Claims 9, 11 and 13 are dependent upon claim 8 which Applicant submits is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 9, 11 and 13 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr., Reg. No. 25,156
Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.
105 W. Adams Street
Suite 3600
Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 704-1890